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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITRUS HEIGHTS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FELONY BANK FRAUD, AGGRAVATED I.D. THEFT, CREDIT CARD FRAUD, AND POSSESSION OF STOLEN U.S. MAIL

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that BRIAN TRAVIS BAKO, 20, of Citrus Heights, California, pled guilty today before United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton, to four felony offenses related to his scheme to steal money from local merchants and federally-insured financial institutions by means of fraud and identity theft.

This case is the product of extensive investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Sacramento Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, BAKO, from early March 2007 through April 2007, engaged in a scheme to commit bank fraud and credit card fraud with stolen U.S. Mail and with identity information belonging to others. After stealing U.S. Mail from residential mailboxes and cluster boxes in Orangevale, California, and from rural mailboxes in Sacramento County, BAKO sorted the mail for financial documents, identity information, and credit card information. While on his spree, BAKO purchased luxury items from local merchants and attempted to get cash. According to the plea agreement in this case, BAKO will make full restitution for his theft. He was on probation at the time of his offense conduct.

BAKO is scheduled to be sentenced on January 8, 2008. The maximum penalty he faces is 60 years imprisonment, five-year term of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$1,750,000. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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